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Economic Commission for Europe

Conference of European Statisticians

Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality

Budva (Montenegro), 26-27 September 2017

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of report

Report of the Expert Meeting on Measuring Poverty and Inequality

Note by the Secretariat

I. Attendance

1. The UNECE Expert Meeting on Measuring Poverty and Inequality was held on 26-27 September 2017 in Budva, Montenegro. It was attended by participants from Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS-Stat), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank were present. Experts from Oxford University (United Kingdom), University of Antwerp (Belgium) and University of Neuchatel (Switzerland) participated at the invitation of the UNECE secretariat.

2. A number of participants could attend the Expert meeting thanks to the financial support from Russian Federation and the United Nations Development Account.

II. Organization of the meeting

3. Ms. Trudi Renwick of the United States Census Bureau was elected as Chair of the meeting.
4. The following topics were discussed at the meeting:
 - a) Stakeholder involvement in indicator development
 - b) National experiences
 - c) Harmonisation of household surveys
 - d) Methodological issues in measuring economic inequalities
 - e) Measurement of vulnerability to poverty
 - f) Measuring wealth and in-kind transfers
 - g) Spatial patterns of poverty
 - h) Discussion on future work
5. The following participants acted as Discussants: for item (a) Mr. Matthias Till (Statistics Austria), for item (b) Mr. Giorgi Kalakashvili (National Statistics Office of Georgia), for item (d) Mr. Richard Tonkin (United Kingdom Office for National Statistics), for item (e) Ms. Elena Danilova-Cross (UNDP), for item (f) Mr. Andrew Heisz (Statistics Canada), and for item (g) Mr Thomas Christin (Swiss Federal Statistical Office).
6. The discussion at the meeting was based on papers that are available on the UNECE website.¹

III. Recommendations for future work

7. The meeting discussed a proposal future methodological work prepared by the UNECE Steering Group on Measuring Poverty and Inequality. The meeting recommended to pursue methodological work on addressing the challenges of disaggregating national poverty estimates and asked the Steering Group to prepare terms of reference for a task force on this topic.
8. The meeting recommended that the next UNECE Expert meeting on measuring poverty and inequality will be organized in the second half of 2018.
9. Participants proposed the following topics for discussion at the 2018 Expert meeting:
 - a) Disaggregation of poverty indicators for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - b) Harmonization of inequality and poverty measures

¹ <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2017.9.poverty.seminar.html>

- c) Inclusion of imputed rent and social transfers in kind in the income measure
 - d) Asset-based poverty and inequality
 - e) Coverage of hard-to-reach and potentially disadvantaged population groups in data collection
 - f) Spatial patterns of poverty, considering sampling precision and small area estimation
 - g) Potential for producing individual level poverty measures to assess within household inequalities
 - h) Analysing longitudinal measures of poverty
 - i) Comparable indexes of multidimensional poverty: indicators and data requirements
 - j) Good practices in using register data for poverty and inequality measurement
 - k) Subjective poverty
10. The Steering Group will elaborate the call for papers for the 2018 Expert meeting and will ask for volunteers to organize the sessions.

IV. Adoption of the report of the meeting

11. The present report was adopted during the closing session.
12. A summary of the discussion in the substantive sessions of the meeting will be presented in the annex of this report, to be prepared by the Secretariat after the meeting.
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